

How You Can Help

✿ Contribute on your state tax form.

Voluntary donations are a major source of funding for NHESP. All donations go into the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund, a critical source for the annual budget of NHESP. About 20,000 tax-filers support the Program each year. If you have made a contribution in this manner, **thank you** for supporting the Program and its conservation efforts!

Look for this line on your state income tax form and please contribute!



Endangered Species Conservation in Massachusetts depends on you!

✿ Send a donation directly.

Contributions can also be made directly by sending a check payable to the “Commonwealth of MA: NHESP” to:

**Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230
West Boylston, MA 01583**

✿ Order one of our publications.

NHESP produces a variety of publications, from field guides for vernal pools and dragonflies, to fact sheets on rare species, to *BioMap2* maps of rare species, habitats, and landscapes throughout the state. Some of these are free while the sale of others helps support NHESP activities.

Want to Know More?

✿ Visit our Web Site:

At www.nhesp.org, you will find:

- a list of the state’s rare species, with links to separate fact sheets on most of them;
- information on our publications;
- forms to submit rare species sightings;
- a link to the interactive *BioMap2*;
- and more information on all our activities.

✿ Publications:

Include:

- *BioMap2: Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World* - free
- *A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts* - \$20.00
- *A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools* - \$12.00

For more information, see our web site or call.



Blue-spotted Salamander – Special Concern

✿ Contact Us:

Phone: 508-389-6360
Fax: 508-389-7890
Email: natural.heritage@state.ma.us
Web: www.nhesp.org

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butterfly – Mike Nelson; aster – New England Wild Flower Society/
Bill Larkin; salamander – Leo Kenney 3/13



Roseate Tern - Endangered

Saving Our Natural Heritage



Frosted Elf - Special Concern

We Need Your Help!

**Natural Heritage
& Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

Rare Species & Biodiversity: A Natural Heritage Worth Saving

More than 425 plants and animals are recognized as rare in Massachusetts, from the beautiful Plymouth Gentian of Coastal Plain ponds on Cape Cod, to Blanding's Turtles found only in the eastern half of the state, to the Bald Eagles of the Quabbin, the Midland Clubtail dragonfly of the Connecticut River, and the Nodding Pogonia orchid of the Berkshires. Worthy of protection just because they exist, these rare species are even more valuable as indicators of intact, complex, functioning ecosystems and natural communities. Biodiversity is the complete array of plants, animals, fungi, microbes – all of life taken together – on which we all depend. Yet, this biodiversity is threatened by human impacts on the land. Protecting the rare species of Massachusetts and their habitats – the ponds, mountains, and forests where they live – as well as exemplary natural communities, helps ensure the protection of the biodiversity of the Commonwealth.



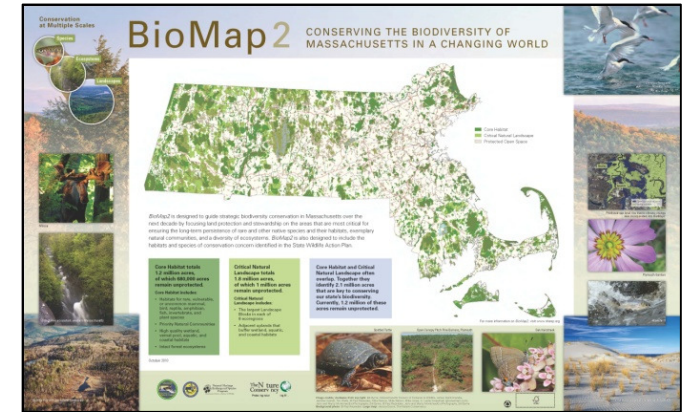
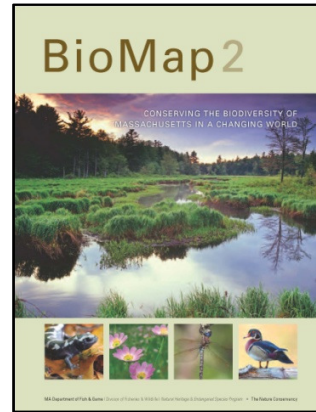
Eastern Silvery Aster - Endangered

What is NHESP?

As part of MassWildlife, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) is responsible for the conservation of rare native plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates that are officially listed as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern in Massachusetts. The Program is funded substantially by contributions, fees and grants.

BioMap2: A Strategic Land Conservation Plan for the Commonwealth

Through **BioMap2**, NHESP and The Nature Conservancy delineated the key habitats across the state for rare plants and animals and the best examples of a diversity of natural communities and landscapes.



Protecting these *BioMap2* areas will conserve rare species, natural communities, and our important landscapes for the long term.

For more information on protecting *BioMap2* areas, order our free publication, ***BioMap2: Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World***, by calling 508-389-6360 or visiting www.nhesp.org.

Biodiversity Information. Conservation Impact.

What MassWildlife's Natural Heritage Program Accomplishes

🌿 Collecting Biological Data

NHESP gathers data on the numbers, distribution, and conservation needs of rare species and exemplary natural communities throughout the state. Over 19,000 recent and historical records of rare species and natural community occurrences are maintained in the NHESP database. These site-specific data are used to direct conservation efforts in research, land protection, habitat management, and environmental impact reviews.

🌿 Reviewing Environmental Impacts

NHESP reviews numerous projects annually under the **MA Endangered Species Act**, the MA Wetlands Protection Act, and other environmental laws for their potential impact on state-protected rare species habitat. NHESP also **certifies vernal pools**, which then receive enhanced regulatory protection.

🌿 Recovering Rare Species

NHESP has helped restore populations of rare species to the state, such as Roseate Terns, Sandplain Gerardia, and the Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle, and, through habitat and species management, has increased the state's populations of many others. For example, threatened Piping Plovers have increased in the state from about 130 pairs in 1985, to about 575 pairs in 2010, through the intensive efforts of NHESP biologists and cooperators.

🌿 Protecting Habitat

Rare species in Massachusetts are threatened primarily by habitat loss and degradation. NHESP identifies habitat critical to rare species and helps prioritize MassWildlife's land acquisition projects. NHESP staff also helps other state and federal agencies, conservation groups, and municipalities to protect and manage land for rare species.